



Harbinger

SPRINGFIELD CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER

VOL. 17 NO. 3

Summer's around the corner so it's time to start planning summer vacations and activities. Some of those activities probably include your favorite hobbies. Hobbies—most of us have one, two, three or more. My interests in hobbies started at an early age. As I grew older, some of my hobbies became passions. With greater interest in any hobby, comes a certain amount of skill. Outdoor hobbies such as canoeing, fishing, archery, birding, and finding your way back home when out hiking all require a degree of skill.

Use this summer to introduce a child to a new outdoor skill that may develop into a lifelong passion.

My early experiences with outdoor skills came through much trial and error and the influence of family members. As a young boy, I spent many of my weekends fishing for catfish with my brother and dad. Anyone who has fished for catfish knows that it's a slow process requiring patience. Once I cast my line, I sat and waited for the first bite. Two minutes went by and not a single bite, but I expected one at any second. After ten minutes, my mind and eyes began to wander to the surrounding sights and sounds. Fifteen minutes later, I gave up and began to explore. I noticed the exposed soil had little to no vegetation and was compacted from the number of fishermen that had fished from that spot over the years. I found a tangle of old fishing line and pulled it in to see if there were any reusable fishing weights on the other end. Another glance towards my rod tip indicated that fishing was still slow. I asked my dad if I could go exploring down a trail that followed the river's edge. I walked along ever so slowly in hopes of catching a glimpse of a frog or of a snake basking. I now stood too far from my fishing rod to see the tip. I

walked back to check my line, still no bite. I sat and watched. Two minutes went by before I was drawn back to the trail to **hike and explore** for signs of wildlife. Sign your child up for the Conservation Kids' Club or TEEN Club to learn more about exploring the outdoors.

While growing up, my older brother and I spent countless hours exploring trails. On a number of occasions, I spotted a bird that I did not recognize.

Childhood Adventures

Often times, my brother would identify it for me which both surprised and amazed me. However, one day he let me in on his secret. During study hall in the school library he searched the encyclopedias and bird books for the birds we had seen on our outings. I now realize how much influence he had on inspiring the naturalist within me. **Birding** with a field guide is a great way to spend a morning or afternoon while on a trail.

One evening while watching a television show, I saw someone start a fire with a magnifying glass. Ah! I had a plastic magnifying glass that I had found in my Cracker Jacks box. You can guess what I attempted the following day. I tried and tried throughout the day to start a fire but with no such luck. I used leaves, twigs, and even toilet paper and saw smoke, but no flames. Looking back, that was probably a good thing. Today, I can start a campfire using over half a dozen different techniques. You, too, may learn a different way to start your next campfire from primitive skills specialist Don Brink during his **fire starting** program in June.

Another hobby I took up was when my dad purchased a recurve bow about the time I was ten. I watched in awe as he practiced. The speed and flight of

the arrow drew my curiosity. Determined to have my own bow, I soon built one. I cut down a tree sapling that was easily pliable and used an old boot shoelace as a bowstring. I used the straightest limb I could find for an arrow. I shot maybe three times before the bow cracked in half. Over the next three to four years I made a number of bows but none of them ever lasted more than a few weeks. My early fascination with archery led me to

become an avid archer with a modern bow, even though I occasionally shoot my dad's

old recurve bow. Introduce a child to **archery** at the archery program for beginners in June.

Between carving bows, I could be found with friends at a local creek. Fascinated by the aquatic life, we were determined to catch each species in the creek. We brought along a few feet of fishing line and a couple of small hooks. A long tree limb was used as a pole and a batch of Mom's tortilla dough served as bait. We had seen a number of small fish swimming, but weren't quite sure what species they were. Once we caught some, we realized that they were creek chubs. We caught everything from crawdads to hellgrammites to fish. We had caught larger fish from the river while on family adventures, but creek fishing by ourselves was a favorite pastime during those long summer days. Take a kid **fishing** during Kids' Fishing Fun Day in May.

Through their imagination and resourcefulness, children create adventures with nearly any time spent out-of-doors. Introduce a new outdoor skill to a child this summer and you may both develop a hobby that becomes a lifelong passion. See a listing of programs inside for more details.

~~Rudy Martinez

Chipping In . . . Invaluable Volunteers

Volunteers are an invaluable resource for the Conservation Department. They support conservation efforts, represent the community, come from diverse backgrounds, and enjoy giving their time. Some volunteers are hard to keep in volunteer positions because they become part of a valuable resource pool from which the Department hires hourly or salaried staff. Many former Volunteer Naturalists have gone on to become Conservation Department employees.

Donna Legg graduated with the first volunteer class in 1989 and now

works as an hourly Naturalist at the nature center.

Jeff Cantrell, class of 1990, worked as an hourly Naturalist at the nature center before being promoted to Conservation Education Consultant working out of the Neosho office.

Geoff Hefner, class of 1995, worked as an hourly employee for the Fisheries Division for three summers.

Regina Knauer, class of 1995, worked as a Naturalist at the nature center for three years. She was then promoted to Conservation Education Consultant and is now the Outdoor

Skills Regional Supervisor in Springfield.

Danton Letterman, class of 1995, works as a Conservation Agent in Stone County.

Don Schwiethale, class of 1995, worked for three years in a weekend clerical position at the nature center.

Jean Mayer, class of 1996, works as the Outdoor Skills Specialist in Springfield.

James Dixon, class of 1997, and **Rudy Martinez**, class of 1998, work as salaried Naturalists at the nature center.

Jerry Kiger, class of 2000, has left his hourly Naturalist position at the nature center to begin training with the new class of Conservation Agents.

Cole Chatman, class of 2001, holds an hourly clerical position at the nature center while working on completing his Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Conservation and Management.

Two more Volunteer Naturalists have recently joined the ranks of hourly staff at the nature center. **Becky Low**, class of 2000, and **Kim Banner**, class of 2003, have given up their volunteer duties and are now being paid to lead hikes, present programs, answer questions, sell hunting and fishing permits, and write articles for the newsletter. The next time you see one of our volunteers in action, please take time to thank these invaluable individuals and potential employees for chipping in.

Thank you . . .

We would like to thank Brandon Bennett, Mandy Smith, Joel Loveland, and Cub Scout Pack 197 for donating various natural objects; Ron and Leslie Carrier for bird seed; Gerald Fischer for peanuts; and Garmin International Inc. for the use of several GPS units.

Volunteer Milestones

Amy Short	3000 Hours
Therese Helm	2000 Hours
Earl Niewald	1500 Hours
Julia Craig	200 Hours

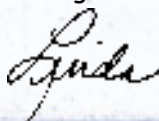
The View From The Bridge

It's time to talk trash, and I mean talking dirty. Beginning in May, even Governor Bob Holden will be talking trash as he officially proclaims May 1 as No MOre Trash! Day in Missouri. He thinks it's time to clean up the state and make citizens aware of the environmental hazards unsightly litter creates, and so do we.

With respect to littering, five types of people have been identified. *Non-litterers*, those environmentally-conscious folks who would never consider throwing their trash out; *inconvenients*, people who think that dealing with their own trash takes too much time; *ignorants*, those folks who are unaware of how littering affects the environment; *willful arrogants* who believe it's okay to litter in some places and not in others; and finally, the *anti-establishments* who feel that littering makes a purposeful statement about their views. Sources of littering have been also been identified in descending order as coming from pedestrians, drivers, garbage cans, commercial dumpsters, demolition sites, loading docks, and trucks with debris in the back.

Caring enough not to litter is driven first by knowledge and awareness about litter and its unsightly and negative environmental effects and finally by whether or not people can "get away" with littering. The No MOre Trash! campaign addresses all of these issues by providing information through their Web site at <<http://www.nomoretrash.org>>. Finally, reminder signs about the financial cost of littering will be placed at rest areas listing the statute and fines for anyone not persuaded by simple facts about littering.

Contact us for more information on how you can help with the No MOre Trash! campaign because it's time for all of us to do our part in beautifying our state. By doing so, we'll not only make Missouri MOre beautiful, but we'll also succeed in making our lives MOre environmentally healthy.

 Linda F. Chorice
Nature Center Manager



May

Events at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center

For programs requiring registration, call 888-4237.

Registration for all programs begins the first day of the month.

Governor Bob Holden proclaims

May 1 as No MORE

Trash! Day in Missouri. Pick up trash and help beautify our state.

No MORE Trash!

8 Hiking Club

Thursday, 6-9pm

Enjoy an evening hike at Compton Hollow Conservation Area. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Hike is three miles. Registration required.

9 Babes In The Woods Celebrates Mothers

Friday, 10-10:45am

Mothers, we celebrate you during the month of May (and always). Bring your children, ages 0-2, for a guided nature walk. Bring a stroller and join the fun! Registration required.

17 Conservation TEEN Club

North Fork Float Trip

Saturday, 8am-5pm

The North Fork River is known for its large feeder springs and wild character. Come along as we explore one of the most popular streams in the Ozarks. Transportation, canoes, and lunch provided. Permission slips must be signed and returned prior to departure. Ages 12-17. Registration required.

Hiking Club Camp Out

Saturday, Noon to Sunday, 5pm

Join us for a two-day hike as we backpack into Paddy Creek Wilderness, camp overnight, and backpack out. Bring your backpack, camping gear, snacks, Sunday lunch, and plenty of water. Camping is primitive, hike is moderate to difficult, and length is 12 miles over two days. Registration required.

18 Discovery Table

Heavenly Hummers

Sunday, 1-4pm

Stop by and discover what makes hummingbirds unique among all their avian cousins. Try your hand at a hummingbird craft.

18 Primitive Skills Series

Flint Knapping Demonstration

Sunday, 1-3pm

Volunteer Naturalist and primitive skills specialist Don Brink returns for another primitive skills session. Watch him transform simple rocks into artistic and functional points similar to the ones used by early man for arrowheads and other tools. See the basics of flint knapping and try your hand at this age-old skill. Stop by anytime.

Summer Hummers

Sunday, 5-6:30pm

Hummingbirds have returned to the Ozarks! Join bird bander Sarah Driver as she talks about hummingbirds, attempts to capture and band some, and shows you how to make a hummingbird feeder. Families. Registration required.

20 Citizens Role In Watershed Protection

Tuesday, 7-8:30pm

Join us as we partner with the Greater Ozarks Audubon Society to present an informative program on what you can do as an individual to protect the quality of our water. A panel discussion will be presented by guest speakers from organizations on the front lines of watershed improvement and protection. Executive Director Floyd Gilzow of the Upper White River Basin Foundation, Executive Director Loring Bullard of the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Executive Director Diana Sheridan of the James River Basin Partnership, and Materials Recovery Education Coordinator Barbara Lucks from the City of Springfield are featured speakers. Ages 12-adult.

22 Tree Pest Clinic

Thursday, 10am-Noon

Do your trees have disease or insect problems? Bring infected twigs (at least 15" long), branches, or leaves to Urban Forester Cindy Garner for identification and a solution to your tree problems. Stop by anytime.

22 For Adults Only

Herp Hunt

Thursday, 6-9pm

We'll go searching for active amphibians and reptiles this evening. Meet at the nature center and carpool to nearby areas where we can view herps in their natural environment. Plan on getting your feet wet so wear old shoes. Ages 18-adult. Registration required.

24 Nature Photo Field Trip

Saturday, 9am-1pm

Join photographer and Volunteer Naturalist Bob Ball on a photo field trip. Meet at the nature center and carpool to a local area for scenic and macro photography. Adjustable camera with wide-angle and macro capability and tripod required. Bring your lunch or snacks. Drinks will be provided. Ages 14-adult. Registration required.

27 Conservation Kids' Club

Turtle-Mania

Tuesday, 6:30-7:45pm

Cooters, sliders, stinkpots, and snappers—Missouri is home to 21 different kinds of turtles. Learn about the history of these ancient reptiles, how to care for one properly, and how to identify these truly unique creatures. Ages 7-12. Please, only one adult per group of kids and no younger siblings. Registration required.

30 Hunter Education

Friday, 6-9pm and

Saturday, 8am-4pm

This 10-hour course is required for anyone born after January 1, 1967 who wants to hunt with firearms in Missouri. This course is continued on Saturday from 8am to 4pm (lunch break given—lunch not provided). You must pass a written test to be certified. Ages 11-adult. Call today to register.

• Enjoy a naturalist-guided hike for families on the first Saturday of each month from 9 to 11am.

• Movies are shown each Sunday from 2 to 3pm.





June

Events at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center

For programs requiring registration, call 888-4237.

Registration for all programs begins the first day of the month.

5 Hiking Club

Thursday, 6-9pm

Join Volunteer Naturalist Doug Gilliam for an evening hike at Busiek Conservation Area. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Hike is three miles. Ages 18-adult. Registration required.

6 Conservation TEEN Club Overnight Adventure

Friday, 4pm to Saturday, 4pm

Come spend the night under the stars at a local wilderness area. The outing will include trail hiking, outdoor cooking lessons, and more. Participants must bring their own supplies. Food and transportation provided. A permission slip must be signed and returned prior to departure. Ages 12-17. Registration required.

7 For Adults Only

Beaver Creek Float Trip

Saturday, 8:30am-5pm

If you're a first-time or novice canoeist, this is a great chance "to get your feet wet." Come enjoy one of the best recreational pastimes the Ozarks has to offer. Cost of canoes will be approximately \$17 per person. Call for additional details. Ages 18-adult. Registration required.

8 Primitive Skills Series

Fire And Flintstone

Sunday, 1-3pm

Volunteer Specialist Don Brink returns to demonstrate how to start fires without matches and butane. Different primitive fire making techniques will be demonstrated. Afterwards, try your hand at starting a fire the primitive way. Ages 12-adult. Registration required.

13 Discovery Table

Crawdads

Friday, 1-4pm

Stop by and observe some live crawdads and make your own "mudbug."

Hunter Education

Friday, 6-9pm and Saturday, 8am-4pm

[Same as May 30] *Call today to register.*

14 Babes In The Woods Celebrates Fathers

Saturday, 10-10:45am

Fathers (and other favorite Big People), celebrate your special day with your children, ages 0-2, on a guided nature stroll. Bring a stroller and enjoy some special time outside with your babies! Registration required.

15 Hiking Club

Sunday, 1-9pm

Prairies are at their showy best during June. Meet at the nature center and carpool to Prairie State Park to spend the afternoon looking at the plants and animals that live there. Hike is six miles. Ages 18-adult. Registration required.

17 Archery For Beginners

Tuesday, 6-8:30pm

Learn the basics, what you need to get started, and spend time practicing your archery skills at the archery range at Bois D'Arc Conservation Area. Meet at the range and bring your own gear, if you have it. Ages 12-adult. Registration required.

19 Tree Pest Clinic

Thursday, 10am-Noon

Do your trees have disease or insect problems? Bring infected twigs (at least 15" long), branches, or leaves to Urban Forester Cindy Garner for identification and a solution to your tree problems. Stop by anytime.

21 Babes In The Woods Celebrates Summer

Saturday, 10-10:45am

Summer breezes make us feel fine as we go on a guided nature stroll to introduce you and your favorite 0-2 year old to the sweet days of summer. Bring a stroller. Registration required.

Beginning Photography

Saturday, 10am-2pm

This introductory course will cover basic 35mm photography using nature as the primary subject. The workshop will include a morning lecture by Volunteer Naturalist Art Daniels, lunch (bring your own), and an afternoon photography session in the field. Ages

21 Crayfish Cool Creek Critters

Saturday, 2-4pm

Crayfish, crawfish, crawdads . . . no matter what you call them, they're lots of fun. Wear your wading sneakers, because after the indoor program we'll carpool to Galloway Creek and try to catch crayfish. Ages 7-adult. Registration required.

22 Summer Hummers

Sunday, 5-6:30pm

Although hummingbirds may be a bit busy and out of sight during their current mating and nesting season, you can still enjoy an evening with Sarah Driver as she shares her knowledge about Missouri's smallest bird and attempts to capture and band some. Families. Registration required.

24 Conservation Kids' Club

Etch And Sketch

Nature Journaling For Kids

Tuesday, 6:30-8pm

Learn how "to etch" an outdoor experience in your mind by learning "to sketch" and to write about your experiences. No prior art or writing experience is necessary, just a curiosity of and an interest in the great outdoors! Ages 7-12. Please, only one adult per group of kids and no younger siblings. Registration required.

26 Firefly Frolic

Thursday, 8-9pm

Fireflies have intrigued and fascinated children and adults on countless summer evenings. Join Volunteer Naturalist Nancy Ryan to learn everything you ever wanted to know about nature's "flashlights." Bring *your* flashlight and join the fun. Families. Registration required.

28 Hike-And-Seek On The Ozark Greenways Trail

Saturday, 10am-12:30pm

Spend a morning exploring a section of the Ozark Greenways Galloway Trail. Meet at the nature center and play hike-and-seek as you hike three miles to Sequiota Park. Answer nature-related questions along the way to earn prizes. Refreshments will be available at Sequiota Park. Families. Registra-

Little Acorns . . .

Little Acorns programs are for children 3-6 years and are 45-minutes in length. Please limit **Little Acorns** programs to one per month. Registration begins the first day of the month.

May

Other Mothers

Celebrate wild motherhood and learn about the special and important roles wild mothers play in nature.

Saturday, May 3, 10am or 1pm

Wednesday, May 7, 1pm

Roly-Poly Roundup

Hey, partners, join in the roly-poly fun as Volunteer Naturalist Nancy Ryan returns for this year's roundup!

Wednesday, May 7, 2pm

Wednesday, May 28, 2pm

Who Goes There?

Where are owls' ears? Do their eyes glow in the dark? Can they really turn their head in a circle? Come find out the answers to these questions and other interesting tidbits.

Tuesday, May 20, 11am or 1pm

Wednesday, May 28, 10am

June

Bigmouth Bullfrogs

From tadpoles to adult bullfrogs, we'll learn the life changes that frogs go through and why they are such good leapers.

Thursday, June 5, 10am or 1pm

Friday, June 20, 10am or 1pm

Mudbug Mystery

Have you ever heard of a mudbug? They're small, they live in the water, they have a hard shell, and you can eat them. Still mystified? Come and learn all about these "crusty" creatures and see some up close.

Tuesday, June 17, 10am or 1pm

Saturday, June 21, 10am

Nature's Nightlights

Summer evenings will be filled with more than just magic and fun for your little ones when they discover fireflies with Volunteer Naturalist Nancy Ryan.

Friday, June 27, 11am or 1pm

Super Scout Saturday

Saturday, May 10

10am-4pm



Attention: Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors; Tigers, Wolves, Bears, and Webelos; Camp Fire USA; and Royal Rangers.

Here's another opportunity for the groups listed above to have fun learning while earning nature-oriented badges. Stations set up throughout the building will provide information and/or activities that will satisfy certain requirements for various badges. Mix and match stations to complete as many requirements as you like. Adult supervision is required. Call or stop by the nature center for more information.

The Nature Nook Gift Shop . . .

Come in and browse through the Nature Nook for both Mother and Father's Day gift ideas. Featured specials during the months of May and June are the *Missouri Wildflowers* book for \$9.60 (no other discounts apply) and a free *Missouri Ozark Waterways* publication with \$10 purchase.



Harbinger Highlights . . .

Defined, harbinger (pronounced här'bīn-jər) is anything that fore-shadows a future event; omen; sign. Warm weather and good water conditions serve as harbingers for the many canoeing opportunities available in the Ozarks. Free information is available at the nature center about float streams and canoe outfitters. Always check water conditions by calling the canoe outfitter or by monitoring the USGS Web site, <<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/mo/nwis/rt>>. The following waterways provide easy to moderate floats, have canoe services available, and give you an excuse to get outdoors for a day or week-end to enjoy an Ozarks stream.

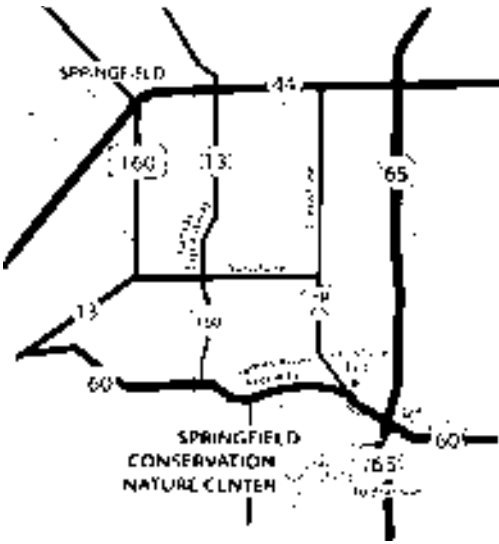
Beaver Creek: five-mile section above Brownbranch (three- to four-hour float) **or** five-mile section below Bradleyville (three- to four-hour float).

Bryant Creek: Missouri 95 to Sycamore Access on Missouri 181 (five- to seven-hour float) **or** Sycamore Access on Missouri 181 to Warren Bridge (four- to five-hour float).

Finley Creek: Riverdale to the low-water crossing just before the Finley joins the James River (three- to four-hour float).

James River: Shelvin Rock Access to Hootentown (three- to four-hour float) **or** Hootentown to Kerr Access (nine- to twelve-hour float) - good for an overnight trip.

Niangua River: Moon Valley Access to Bennett Spring Access (four- to six-hour float) **or** Bennett Spring Access to Prosperine Access (six- to eight-hour float).



HOURS—The area is open daily 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. from March 1 to October 31, and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the remainder of the year. The building is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. year 'round. The building and area are closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. The area is closed to pets, bicycles, roller blades, hunting, fishing, collecting, and alcoholic beverages. No fees are charged.

STAFF

SPRINGFIELD CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER

Linda Chorce	Manager
April Dozier	Interpretive Programs Supervisor
Kim Banner	Naturalist
James Dixon	Naturalist
Donna Legg	Naturalist
Becky Low	Naturalist
Rudy Martinez	Naturalist
Debbie Baker	Office Supervisor
Nelda Hendrix	Administrative Staff Assistant
Cole Chatman	General Clerk
John Hinkle	Maintenance
Paula Mangan	Maintenance
Eric McMillan	Maintenance
Mike Tillman	Maintenance
Mike Wilson	Maintenance



Fishing Fun Day

Saturday, May 31

8am-Noon

Sportsman's Park

Come join the fun. Sportsman's Park Lake will be stocked with hybrid sunfish and catfish, so get set for some great fishing. Kids will have an opportunity to learn the do's and don'ts of fishing and enjoy a morning of outdoor activities. All children should bring their own equipment and bait. Limit of one rod and reel for each participant.

Participants must pre-register at the Springfield/Greene County Park Board, 1923 N. Weller, at Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, or at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center. Children 13 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Kids' Fishing Day

Saturday, May 17, 6:30am-8:15pm

Roaring River State Park

Call 417/847-2430 for details.

Family Fishing Fair

Saturday, June 7, 10am-2pm

Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery

Call 417/334-4865, ext. 0, for details.

Harbinger



Springfield Conservation Nature Center
Missouri Department of Conservation
4600 South Chrisman
Springfield, MO 65804-4931
Phone 417/888-4237
Fax: 417/888-4241

PRSRT STD.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MO Dept of Conservation